

January 19, 2010

# Legislative Update 2010



Iowa Department of Human Services

## Special points of interest:

- \* Governor Highlights Children's Health Insurance
- \* Senator Harkin Lends A Hand
- \* Senate Confirmation
- \* Reorganize, Retire & Resilient
- \* Funnel Deadlines Change
- \* Seen At the Capitol
- \* DHS Bills Introduced

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## "Together We Must Continue This Investment"

Governor Culver highlighted strides made in health insurance coverage for kids in his "Condition of the State" address this week. Culver said, "You know, I'm proud of the fact that, working together, we've made a long-term investment in the health and education of all children. Just think: In the last three years, because of it, we have extended

health insurance coverage to 52,000 kids. This investment now makes Iowa number one in the nation when it comes to insuring children. Together, we must continue this investment."



## Senator Harkin Lends A Hand

Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) has agreed to assist DHS with outreach and public awareness regarding the federal "Money Follows the Person" grant. The grant helps people move to home or community care from institutional care for persons with disabili-

ties. Senator Harkin will help to promote the grant in a taped message introducing a video about people's stories who have taken the journey to more independent living in the community. Senator Harkin is expected to talk about "real choices about where

and how" people can live their lives. Thank you to Senator Harkin for his support of the effort. Director Krogmeier is also featured in the video and talks to people about how they can sign up and work with transition specialists.

## “DHS Makes A Difference in Peoples’ Lives”

Director Krogmeier made his first appearance before the Senate Human Resources Committee this week as part of his Senate Confirmation process. He talked with Senators about his background in public service and his vision for the Department. He asked for the Senator’s partnership on public policy issues and promised to be “open and transparent” in our

efforts to serve Iowans. Krogmeier briefly touched on the recent DHS Reorganization efforts, implementation of the 10% across-the-board reductions and the future of mental health delivery services. Senators were welcoming and congratulatory. Senator Seymour (R-Woodbine) said he was pleased to see the Director “hitting the ground running”.

The confirmation process will proceed with a subcommittee assignment, formal introduction before the Senate and the appointment calendar.

## Reorganize, Retire & Resilient

Themes for the current Session are starting to emerge this first week. Reorganize: Legislators began work on the 252-page State Government Reorganization bills, SSB 3030 & HSB 565. These bills are assigned to the House and Senate State Government Committees. DHS is analyzing the various impacts on the Department and

talking with Legislators and other stakeholders about implications. Retire: Several retirement bills, including an incentive for early retirement, SSB 3002, has been introduced and passed out of a subcommittee. The early retirement bill has the potential for dramatic changes in state government. According to the Depart-

ment of Management (DOM) over 2,200 individuals may be eligible. DHS projects 600+ employees, or about 10% of the workforce, may be eligible. Resilient: Governor Culver took the opportunity in the “Condition of the State” address to pronounce Iowa “resilient” in the face of natural disasters and national economic challenges.

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“DHS makes a difference in peoples’ lives”.

—Director Krogmeier before the Senate Human Resources Committee

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## It’s Official: Funnel Deadlines Changed

The Legislature made changes in the funnel deadlines official this week by a change in House and Senate Rules. The first funnel is set for Friday, February 12th (the fifth week of Session). The second funnel is

set for Friday, March 5th (the eighth week of Session). Session is set to end this year on March 31st, the 80th calendar day of Session. The Iowa House worked on Friday the first week of Session.



## “Seen at the Capitol”

Thanks to all the DHS staff who contribute to our legislative efforts. Many people are part of this effort and this article strives to mention just a few people who made it to the Capitol this week. Carol Eaton and Diane Dentlinger worked on a child support recovery request for information from a legislator. Jennifer Vermeer made a proposal to the Adult MH/MR/

DD/BI Task Force Interim Committee about State and County Financing for MR/DD services. Sally Titus made comments at the Senate State Government Sub-Committee on the Reorganization bill. Aaron Baack attended a subcommittee meeting on involuntary hospitalizations. Linda Miller welcomed partners to the Hoover Building who participated in the weekly

“Coffee with Charlie”. Thanks to Ed Christensen and Karen Kelleher for all their work in the legislative arena.



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## Did you know?

DHS impacts nearly  
1 in 3 Iowans  
through its efforts  
with services and  
benefits. In FY 2009  
DHS served 892,769  
clients.

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## Upcoming Events

**January 19th**—DHS speaks before the Senate Human Resources Committee at 4:00 about Olmstead and Food Assistance.

**January 21st**—Mental Health Institute Task Force speaks before Human Services Budget Subcommittee.

**January 26th**—FaDDS and Emergency TANF Funds presentation before Human Services Budget Subcommittee. (This is not a DHS presentation.)

**January 28th**—Medicaid Director Jennifer Vermeer speaks on Medicaid increases and IowaCare extension at the Human Services Budget Subcommittee.





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Disclaimer: This legislative update is provided in the spirit of information and education. The opinions expressed by the contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the department or its programs. The department shall not be liable for any damages that may result from errors or omissions in information distributed in this update.

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**The Mission of the Iowa Department of Human Services is to help individuals and families achieve safe, stable, self-sufficient, and health lives, thereby contributing to the economic growth of the state. We do this by keeping a customer focus, striving for excellence, sound stewardship of state resources, maximizing the use of federal funding and leveraging opportunities, and by working with our public and private partners to achieve results.**

## DHS Pre-filed Bills Have Been Introduced

- Reorganization Authority  
(HSB 572 & SSB 3072)
- Child Support  
(HSB 567 & SSB 3074)
- Community Mental Health Centers  
(No bill numbers yet)
- MHMRDDBI Commission Duties  
(HSB 569 & SSB 3075)
- IowaCare  
(HSB 570 & SSB 3073)

